

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS A
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Applicant :
PEM MANAGEMENT, INC., et al. :

International Application No. : SHEET METAL
PCT/US03/04200 : CABLE HOOK

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12 March 2002 :

**LETTER ACCOMPANYING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 34(2)(d)
ACCORDING TO RULE 66.3**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop PCT
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

In response to the Written Opinion mailed on June 3, 2004, applicant submits the attached new claims.

Please substitute pages 10-12 attached hereto, including claims 1-4 and 6-16, for pages 10 and 11 currently filed.

Claims 1, 4, and 6 have been amended, claim 5 has been cancelled, claim 16 is new, and claims 2, 3 and 7-15 remain unchanged. Please refer to the attached marked-up version of the claims which draws attention to the differences between the replaced sheets and the replacement sheets. The following remarks/arguments explain the reasons for the amendments.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant has amended claim 1 to include the novelty of claim 5 and further include a limitation on the frontal opening between the spaced jaws which further defines over the Guerrero reference. Guerrero does not teach a hook but rather two cable enclosing halves of a bracket that include a notch only to secure the halves together, not for retaining articles within the jaws as in applicant's device. The applicant respectfully disagrees that the Guerrero structures qualify as the claimed hook and notch, however he has further defined the structure of his device by limiting the frontal opening so that the jaws of the hook span substantially greater than 180 degrees (i.e. frontal opening substantially less than 180 degrees). The Guerrero jaws are different and cannot be so modified and still retain their functionality. Claim 1 as amended is therefore considered to be both novel and include an inventive step.

Claims 4 and 6 are expressed more broadly as dependent from amended claim 1 rather than depending from a subsequent dependent claim. New claim 16 has been added which is substantially claim 3 written in independent form which has been indicated by the Examining Authority as containing both novelty and an inventive step.

Respectfully submitted,



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DATE: 6/17/04

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1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2 1. A cable hook having self-clinching attachment means, comprising:
3 a substantially rectangular base having a planar bottom surface and
4 further including panel attachment means located on opposing front and rear side
5 surfaces thereof;

6 a hook portion extending upwardly from said base, said hook
7 portion including upper and lower jaws forming a substantially circular C-shaped
8 hook with a frontal opening of substantially less than 180 degrees measured from
9 an axis of the hook, said opening located between spaced ends of said jaws; and
10 a single laterally extending notch on the inside surface of said upper
11 jaw proximate said frontal opening.

12 2. The device of claim 1 wherein said jaws have a continuous arcuate
13 inside surface except for said notch.

14 3. The device of claim 2 wherein said base further includes orientation
15 marks on the bottom planar surface thereof proximate only one of said front or rear
16 sides.

17 4. The device of claim 1 wherein said panel attachment means are
18 deformer undercut grooves for receiving the cold flow of metal from a panel
19 attached thereby.

20 6. The device of claim 1 further including an insert which encompasses
21 the inside surface of the jaws and partially encompasses the lateral sides of the
22 fastener adjacent the lateral opening.

23 7. The device of claim 6 wherein the insert covers the edges of the
24 jaws.

1 8. The device of claim 7 wherein said insert further includes a
2 pivotal flap that lies across the frontal opening to positively retain items held
3 within the hook.

4 9. The device of claim 8 wherein the flap is unitary with said insert and
5 resiliently biased toward a closed position.

6 10. The device of claim 1 further including a spring-biased catch which
7 covers the frontal opening of the fastener to positively retain items held within the
8 hook.

9 11. The device of claim 10 wherein said insert includes two opposing
10 ears which have inward-facing dimples that engage cooperating recesses on
11 opposite sides of the lower jaw to provide a pivot for said catch.

12 12. The device of claim 11 wherein said insert includes a tail portion
13 which is free to slide against the inside surface of the lower jaw to provide a spring
14 force to close said catch.

15 13. The device of claim 12 wherein said insert is composed of metal.

16 14. The device of claim 12 wherein said insert is composed of an
17 electrically non-conductive thermoplastic.

18 15. The device of claim 6 further described in that said insert is a
19 continuous cylinder covering said frontal opening.

20 16. A cable hook having self-clinching attachment means, comprising:
21 a substantially rectangular base having a planar bottom surface and
22 further including panel attachment means located on opposing front and rear side
23 surfaces thereof;
24 a hook portion extending upwardly from said base, said hook

1 a substantially rectangular base having a planar bottom surface and
2 further including panel attachment means located on opposing front and rear side
3 surfaces thereof;
4 a hook portion extending upwardly from said base, said hook
5 portion including upper and lower jaws forming a substantially C-shaped hook with
6 a frontal opening located between spaced ends of said jaws;
7 a single laterally extending notch on the inside surface of said upper
8 jaw proximate said frontal opening; and
9 said base further including orientation marks on the bottom planar
10 surface thereof proximate only one of said front or rear sides.

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2 Claim 1 (currently amended)

3 A cable hook having self-clinching attachment means, comprising:
4 a substantially rectangular base having a planar bottom surface and
5 further including panel attachment means located on opposing front and rear side
6 surfaces thereof;

7 a hook portion extending upwardly from said base, said hook
8 portion including upper and lower jaws forming a substantially circular C-shaped
9 hook with a frontal opening of substantially less than 180 degrees measured from
10 an axis of the hook, said opening located between spaced ends of said jaws; and
11 a single laterally extending notch on the inside surface of said upper
12 jaw proximate said frontal opening.

13 Claim 2 (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said jaws have a
14 continuous arcuate inside surface except for said notch.

15 Claim 3 (original) The device of claim 2 wherein said base further
16 includes orientation marks on the bottom planar surface thereof proximate only one
17 of said front or rear sides.

18 Claim 4 (currently amended) The device of claim 3 1 wherein said panel
19 attachment means are deformer undercut grooves for receiving the cold flow of
20 metal from a panel attached thereby.

21 Claim 5 (cancelled)

22 Claim 6 (currently amended) The device of claim 4 1 further including an
23 insert which encompasses the inside surface of the jaws and partially encompasses
24 the lateral sides of the fastener adjacent the lateral opening.

1 Claim 7 (original) The device of claim 6 wherein the insert covers the
2 edges of the jaws.

3 Claim 8 (original) The device of claim 7 wherein said insert further
4 includes a pivotable flap that lies across the frontal opening to positively retain
5 items held within the hook.

6 Claim 9 (original) The device of claim 8 wherein the flap is unitary with
7 said insert and resiliently biased toward a closed position.

8 Claim 10 (original) The device of claim 1 further including a spring-
9 biased catch which covers the frontal opening of the fastener to positively retain
10 items held within the hook.

11 Claim 11 (original) The device of claim 10 wherein said insert includes
12 two opposing ears which have inward-facing dimples that engage cooperating
13 recesses on opposite sides of the lower jaw to provide a pivot for said catch.

14 Claim 12 (original) The device of claim 11 wherein said insert includes a
15 tail portion which is free to slide against the inside surface of the lower jaw to
16 provide a spring force to close said catch.

17 Claim 13 (original) The device of claim 12 wherein said insert is
18 composed of metal.

19 Claim 14 (original) The device of claim 12 wherein said insert is
20 composed of an electrically non-conductive thermoplastic.

21 Claim 15 (original) The device of claim 6 further described in that said
22 insert is a continuous cylinder covering said frontal opening.

23 Claim 16 (new)

24 A cable hook having self-clinching attachment means, comprising:

1 portion including upper and lower jaws forming a substantially C-shaped hook with
2 a frontal opening located between spaced ends of said jaws;
3 a single laterally extending notch on the inside surface of said upper
4 jaw proximate said frontal opening; and
5 said base further including orientation marks on the bottom planar
6 surface thereof proximate only one of said front or rear sides.